

The Data Collection Framework

EU Council Regulation 199/2008 - Establishing a Community framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector for scientific advice regarding the CFP

Report of the 6th Liaison Meeting

Meeting between the Chairs of the RCMs, the chair of ICES PGCCDBS, the chair of PGMED, the ICES representative, the Chair of SGRN and the European Commission

FINAL DRAFT

(Version 3)

Hamburg, Germany - 7th and 8th December 2009

Great discoveries and improvements invariably involve
the co-operation of many minds

Alexander Graham Bell (1847 – 1922)

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Summary and Main LM Recommendations

The 6th Liaison Meeting (LM) between the chair of ICES PGCCDBS, the chair of PGMEDS, the ICES representative, the chair of SGRN and the European Commission was held at the Johann von Thunsen Institute, Hamburg, Germany from the 7th and 8th December 2009.

The LM was held in parallel to the SGRN 09-04 meeting, which took place at the Johann von Thunsen Institute, Hamburg, Germany from the 7th to 11th December 2009. SGRN have commented that holding these meetings in parallel was unsatisfactory and this should not happen again (See SGRN 09-04 Report).

During the 6th LM, the following 2009 RCM Reports were discussed: RCM Baltic Sea (RCM Baltic); North Sea & East Arctic, (RCM NS&EA); RCM North Atlantic (RCM NEA); RCM Mediterranean and Black Sea (RCM Med&BS). The LM welcomed the standard report structure that was applied in all RCMs reports as it proved to be very helpful when collating their main outputs and discussing common recommendations.

The terms of reference for the meeting included consideration of the specific recommendations from the 2009 RCM meetings and their status. Section 1 of this report tracks the RCM recommendations in terms of follow up actions needed, responsibility for actions, deadlines for actions and LM comments on the status of the recommendations.

In the RCM-NA, most of the LM recommendations have been followed up, apart from minor issues such as the prioritisation of effort variables. The RCM NS&EA expanded its scope to NAFO areas and ICES Sub-area XII, XIV and Division Va. Overall, the 5th LM recommendations have been followed up. At the RCM Baltic, all LM recommendations have been followed up. Work progress in the RCM Med&BS is significantly held back by the non-attendance of some MS (especially Greece and Romania). Apart from this drawback, the group found that the definition of transversal variables remains unclear and noted that that no advice from SGECA was provided.

With regard to the development of indicators of accuracy and precision, the LM endorsed the suggestion of having a proposed study to harmonise quality reporting. The terms of reference on a study to harmonise quality reporting and propose methodology in the case of non probability sample survey were drafted.

LM proposed a Training workshop on the estimation of capital value and capital costs. Many MS required practical instructions on how to apply the PIM methodology in their NP and TR. It could be useful to organize a training workshop where MSs present their experiences and their problems in applying the common method. The outcomes of this workshop will be guidelines on the application of the common PIM methodology.

The LM agreed that the current agenda of the RCMs is too technical for National Correspondents (NCs) and consequently not attractive enough for them to attend. In order to get the NCs involved, a 2-step procedure (first technical, then administrators' level) was discussed. LM recommends that NCs should be invited to attend the last day of the RCMs

only (e.g. Thursday p.m. to Friday noon). The respective RCM should provide the main (draft) recommendations to be discussed by NCs at the end of the meeting.

The regional data base (RDB) issue was discussed. After several unsuccessful attempts of developing RDB in all fishing regions around Europe, and considering that the positions on this issue have shown divergence of strategic viewpoints, LM proposed to set up a Workshop on Regional Data Management Strategies. This workshop is to be given a high priority status and must be convened before the 2010 RCMs. In order to ensure the efficiency of the workshop, LM recommended to the four RCM chairs to appoint four participants from their region, trying to achieve a balance between IT experts, economists, biologists and data managers. If accepted for DCF financial support, the NC should immediately anticipate the travel of one person for 4 days in Brussels in their revised NP proposal and inform for 2010. The proposed date and venue for the workshop are 22-24 February in Brussels. LM developed draft terms of Reference for the 2010 RCM's. These issues will be further discussed at SGRN 09-04.

The provisional schedule of RCM meetings in 2010 was agreed.

RCM Baltic: Vilnius, Lithuania, 10-13 May 2010, (Chair Jukka Pönni).

RCM NS&EA: Copenhagen, Denmark, 17-21 May 2010, (Chair Sieto Verver).

RCM NA: Ostend, Belgium, 19-22 April 2010, (Chair Joël Vigneau).

RCM Med&BS: Varna, Bulgaria, 17-21 May 2010, (Chair Paolo Carpentieri).

RCM LDF: Madrid (to be confirmed), Spain, February? (co-chairs to be confirmed).

In order to run efficient and effective meetings, LM recommended the setting up of a RCM sharepoint facility. An increasing number of issues dealt with by the RCMs (and the LM and SGRN) require access to formal documents (NPs, TRs, regulations), to reports (RCMs, Liaison meeting, SGRN, planning groups, workshops...), etc. A need to exchange working documents, templates to summarize national information before the RCM meetings is also more and more stressing. LM endorsed the idea of creating a RCMs sharepoint for the storing of reference documents, where RCM participants could find and prepare all the information useful for the meetings, exchange information efficiently during the meeting and for producing the report, and be able to carry out intersessional work. The EC representative informed the Liaison Meeting that the issue on the implementation of a sharepoint is included in the work plan actually negotiated between EC and JRC. The deadline for establishing the tool would be February 2010.

The current position in relation to the Long Distance RCM was discussed and a first draft of the Terms of Reference for the Group was agreed. Some fleets, operating in third countries and/or in international waters, are not sufficiently covered by the existing RCMs. This was the case for fisheries taking place in CECAF area or in the Pacific area as well as several tuna fleets operating in the Atlantic or the Indian Ocean. In order to address this concern it is necessary that an RCM for Long Distance Fisheries takes place in early 2010, before Member states submit their multiannual National Programmes for data collection for the period 2011-2013, due for 31st March 2010.

LM discussed the issue of which RCM should deal with blue fin tuna. Since most of the East bluefin tuna stock is covered by the Mediterranean RCM and only a negligible part is covered by the RCM NA, the LM recommends all the sampling activities for the East bluefin tuna stock is co-ordinated by the RCM Med & BS. LM also strongly recommends that scientists working on the eastern bluefin tuna stocks attend the RCM Med & BS and put forward problems associated with data deficiencies and sampling activities of bluefin tuna so that he

RCM Med & BS can take the necessary actions and co-ordination activities. The LM also endorses the proposal made by the RCM Med & BS that the chairman of RCM Med & BS should contact DG MARE and ICCAT to explore whether regional approaches for sampling large pelagics catches fit with national obligations and recommendations on protocols under the ICCAT framework.

LM endorsed the workshops for 2010 proposed by 2009 PGCCDBS and PGMed. All the proposed WKS were included on the DCF eligible list of 2010 meetings. An economic workshop on estimation of capital value and capital cost, related to the DCF has been proposed. This proposal only concerns the main subject of the workshop without clear definition of ToRs, chairmanship, venue and scientific justification. LM recommended SGECA to include ToRs, chairmanship, venue and scientific justification when proposing future workshops. The complete proposals will be evaluated by the EC and then decide about inclusion. LM recommends SGECA/STECF to be active in promoting these studies.

The Commission informed the LM participants that due to lack of funding only three studies are likely to be funded in 2010, these include: one on sharks; one on seabirds and one on the impact assessment of the reform of the CFP. Any studies which have been proposed by the RCMs can be considered for funding from 2011 onwards.

The LM meeting discussed the importance of a JRC website and welcomed the JRC programme to modernise the website

Introduction

1.1. Background

The 6th Liaison Meeting between the chair of ICES PGCCDBS, the chair of PGMEDS, the ICES representative, the chair of SGRN and the European Commission was held at the Johann von Thunsen Institute, Hamburg, Germany from the 7th and 8th December 2009.

The new EU Data Collection Regulation (EU Council Regulation 199/2008) established a community framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector for scientific advice regarding the CFP. According to this regulation and without prejudice to their current data collection obligations under Community law, Member States (MS) shall collect primary biological, technical, environmental and socio economic data within the framework of a multi-annual national programme drawn up in accordance with the Community programme.

According to EC Regulation 665/2008, laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) 199/2008, and its technical Decision 2008/949/EC specifying practical aspects for data collection, actions planned by MS in their national programme shall be presented according to the following regions:

- the Baltic Sea (ICES areas III b-d),
- the North Sea (ICES areas IIIa, IV and VIIId) and the Eastern Arctic (ICES areas I, II),
- the North Atlantic (ICES areas V-XIV and NAFO areas),
- the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea,
- regions where fisheries are operated by Community vessels and managed by Regional Fisheries Management Organisation's (RFMO) to which the Community is contracting party or observer.

Regional co-ordination greatly increases the efficiency, effectiveness and integration of the various DCR National Programmes (NPs). Regional Coordinating Meetings (RCMs) are held annually and involve National Correspondents and both biologists and economists from each MS involved in the DCR programme. The key objectives of the RCMs are to identify areas for standardisation, collaboration and co-operation between MS.

A Liaison Meeting (LM) between the chair of SGRN, the chairs of the different RCM, the Chair of the PGCCDBS, the chair of PGMED, ICES and the Commission is being held annually to analyse the RCM reports in order to ensure overall coordination between the RCMs. On the basis of the reports, the LM makes recommendations to the Commission.

The 2nd Liaison Meeting (2006) has identified the following areas where it can contribute to the effectiveness of data collection and co-ordination within the framework of the Data Collection Regulation (DCR):

- Make sure that the Regional Co-ordination Meetings (RCMs) move into the same

direction.

- Address recommendations made by the RCMs and comment on these / modify them when considered appropriate / necessary.
- Identify issues, developments etc. that are of a pan-European interest and propose actions to be undertaken at the appropriate level (Member States, bilateral, regional or international level)

1.2. RCM Reports discussed at the 6th Liaison Meeting

During the 6th Liaison meeting in December 2009, the following RCM Reports were discussed:

- RCM Baltic Sea (RCM Baltic):
Report of the Regional Co-ordination Meeting for Baltic sea, 2009.
- RCM North Sea & East Arctic, (RCM NS&EA):
Report of the Regional Co-ordination Meeting for the North Sea & East Arctic, Aberdeen, 2009
- RCM North Atlantic (RCM NEA):
Report of the Regional Co-ordination Meeting for North East Atlantic area, 2009.
- RCM Mediterranean and Black Sea (RCM Med&BS):
Report of the Regional Co-ordination Meeting for the Mediterranean and Black Sea area, 2009

1.3. Participants

Paul Connolly (Chair SGRN)

Joel Vingeau (Chair RCM Atlantic)

Christian Dintmer (Former Chair RCM Med)

Christoph Stranski (Chair PGCCDBS)

Sieto Verver (Chair RCM North Sea)

Paolo Carpentieri (New Chair RCM Med)

Mark Dimeck (Chair PG Med)

Jukka Ponni (Chair RCM Baltic)

Jarno Virtaneen (Chair SGECA)

Christina Morgado (ICES)

Antonio Cervantes (EU Commission, DG Mares)

Tiit Raid (EU Commission, JRC)

1.4. Terms of reference

The terms of reference for the 6th Liaison meeting are given in Annex 1 of this report.

Section 1 - Addressing TOR 1

The main outputs from the RCM's, specific recommendations to the Liaison Meeting and recommended follow up actions

The Liaison Meeting welcomed the standard report structure that was applied in all RCMs reports as it proved to be very helpful when collating their main outputs and discussing common recommendations.

The 5th Liaison Meeting (Feb. 2009) had forwarded several issues to the RCMs held in Sep-Oct 2009. Overall, there are only few issues that were (persistently) not followed up. The Liaison Meeting will monitor all action points to ensure they are followed up.

In the **RCM-NA**, most of the LM recommendations have been followed up, apart from minor issues such as the prioritisation of effort variables, due to lack of time at the meeting. The RCM-NA has changed its geographical scope, based on an LM-endorsed proposal by the group, as NAFO areas and ICES Sub-area XII, XIV and Division Va are now being dealt with by the RCM NS&EA (see below). The RCM NA has noted that no intersessional work had been carried out to address the sampling coordination of small pelagic fisheries as these are operating in different fishing grounds during the same trip and recommends to elaborate this issue based on the outcome of ICES WKPRECISE. Furthermore, sampling of very small stocks is to be reconsidered, as sampling in some cases would increase the risk of stock collapse.

The **RCM NS&EA** expanded its scope to NAFO areas and ICES Sub-area XII, XIV and Division Va, as proposed by RCM NA (see above). Overall, the 5th LM recommendations have been followed up. Most of the MS's economists were present at this meeting, with the aim of preparing the ground for the entire supra-region, i.e. including the Baltic, NS&EA and NA.

At the **RCM Baltic**, all LM recommendations have been followed up. The Chair reported on the workload for compiling and formatting the report. Online collaboration facilities and corresponding templates should ensure efficient working procedures, see section on ToR 6.

Work progress in the **RCM Med&BS** is significantly held back by the non-attendance of some MS (especially Greece and Romania). Apart from this drawback, the group found that the definition of transversal variables remains unclear and noted that that no advice from SGECA was provided.

National Correspondents

The current agenda of the RCMs is in general too technical for National Correspondents (NCs) and consequently not attractive enough for them to attend. In order to get the NCs involved, a 2-step procedure (first technical, then administrators' level) was discussed. **LM recommends that NCs should be invited to attend the last day of the RCMs only (e.g.**

Thursday p.m. to Friday noon). The respective RCM should provide the main (draft) recommendations to be discussed by NCs at the end of the meeting.

RCM recommendations

In the following section, the RCM NS&EA recommendations are listed, but they were in many cases similar to the recommendations from the other RCMs. While the other RCMs are not specifically mentioned here, the comments given apply to them as well.

Please note the coloured boxes (i.e. non grey boxes) are specific recommendations that the LM will refer to SGRN for comments.

Economic variables

Economic variables: sampling strategy for the collection of economic variables	
RCM NS&EA 2009 Recommendation	The RCM NS &EA recommends the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the inclusion of a methodology report, as proposed by SGECA, would provide significant benefits 2. there would be merit in reviewing the SGRN guidelines as proposed by SGECA
Follow-up actions needed	On 1: Inclusion of a methodology report in NPs On 2: Review of the SGRN guidelines
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commission and MS 2. SGECA Working Group, i.e. SGECA/DCF
Time frame (Deadline)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. March 2010 2. June 2010
LM comment	LM notes that SGRN 09-03 has taken care of this recommendation by including a methodology report in the new DCF guidelines.

Economic variables: development of indicators of accuracy and precision	
RCM NS&EA 2009 Recommendation	The RCM NS &EA recommends that the proposed study to harmonise quality reporting be undertaken
Follow-up actions needed	RCM Liaison Meeting to draw up Terms of Reference for the study, based on those proposed in the SGECA report (Annex 3), to be undertaken by the SGECA Working Group
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RCM Liaison Meeting and SGECA Working Group, i.e. SGECA/DCF
Time frame (Deadline)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of Reference to be finalised by December 2009 • Study to be completed by December 2010
LM comment	LM notes that the draft ToR for this study is included in the SGECA 09-02 report, Annex 3. The Commission, however, underlines that funding will be limited and that it could not be implemented before 2011. In the meantime, MS should implement variance indicators as suggested by SGECA 09-02.

Economic variables: Clustering of fleet segments	
RCM NS&EA 2009 Recommendation	The RCM NS &EA recommends that <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Statistical legislation had a key role to play in guidance relating to clustering for confidentiality reasons 2. The guidance drawn up by SGECA, setting out the different approaches should be followed 3. Further work be undertaken at a regional level, e.g. Baltic Sea, through the RCMs; any harmonisation should be through guidelines rather than a statutory requirement 4. The distant-water fleet for Baltic Sea MS should not be merged with others because of its distinct characteristics
Follow-up actions needed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigate the statistical legislation used in MS by issuing a questionnaire then develop guidance, informed by the findings 2. Circulate the guidance drawn up by SGECA, requesting it be followed as good practice 3. Develop guidance at a regional level to develop clustering good practice with a view to harmonisation as appropriate 4. Consider RCM NS&EA's recommendation that the distant-water Baltic Sea fleets should not be merged with other fleets
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SGECA Working Group, i.e. SGECA/DCF 2. The Commission 3. RCMs 4. Baltic Sea RCM
Time frame (Deadline)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. May 2010 2. June 2010 3. June 2010 4. October 2009
LM comment	LM noted the recommendations, will be progressed through SGECA 10-01. Long distance will be discussed in Long Distance RCM (early 2010).

Economic variables: common methods to ensure consistency and comparability of all economic variables	
RCM NS&EA 2009 Recommendation	The RCM NS &EA recommends that MS perform checks on the quality of their data and that further work be undertaken to help RCMs prepare for the recommended comparability checks within regions.
Follow-up actions needed	Guidance to be issued to RCMs on the comparability checks that they would be expected to undertake
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RCM Liaison Group and SGECA Working Group, i.e. SGECA/DCF
Time frame (Deadline)	December 2009
LM comment	SGRN/ECA meeting on evaluation of TR2009 to check inconsistencies

Economic variables: General role of SGECA and the role of economists within the RCM framework	
RCM NS&EA 2009 Recommendation	The RCM NS&EA recommends the continuation of the SGECA Working Group as an STECF sub-group, meeting at least annually, and that further work be undertaken to formalise the role of economists within the RCM in order to maximise their contribution to the DCF.
Follow-up actions needed	Recommend way forward to formalise the role of economists including, for example, consideration of appointing Chairperson for RCM Economist Sub-groups and establishing ToR for those Sub-groups; and establishing effective links between the various groups dealing with economic variables.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RCM Liaison Meeting
Time frame (Deadline)	December 2009
LM comment	SGECA working groups should continue in 2010; 3 SGECA meetings are already scheduled for 2010, and a 4 th meeting on DCF issues will be included and should be held annually. The RCM economists sub-groups (for North Atlantic-Baltic-North Sea&Eastern Arctic and Med&BS supra-regions) should appoint a chair each.

Economic variables: Transversal variables – common understanding of effort definitions	
RCM NS&EA/Med&BS 2009 Recommendation	RCM NS&EA recommends that consideration be given to making submission of the following Transversal Variables <i>optional</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number of trips / hours fished for RCM Med&BS • number of rigs • number of fishing operations • number of nets/length • number of hooks/number of lines • number of pots, traps • soaking time
Follow-up actions needed	RCM Liaison Meeting to consider the proposal to make submission of the Transversal Variables listed above optional
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RCM Liaison Meeting
Time frame (Deadline)	December 2009
LM comment	To be addressed by SGRN/SGECA

Economic variables: storage and provision of metadata	
RCM NS&EA 2009 Recommendation	The RCM NS &EA recommends that guidance be developed as to what the metadata to be stored by MS should cover.
Follow-up actions needed	Guidance to be provided and disseminated to MS
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	SGECA Working Group, i.e. SGECA/DCF
Time frame (Deadline)	June 2010
LM comment	This ToR should be on agenda of 4th SGECA in 2010

With regard to the development of **indicators of accuracy and precision**, the **LM endorses** the suggestion of having a proposed study to harmonise quality reporting. The terms of reference were drafted in SGECA 09-02.

Terms of reference for the study to harmonise quality reporting and propose methodology in the case of non probability sample survey:

Background

The DCF, in the section concerning the economic data of the fleet, requires MS to include in their annual report information on the quality (accuracy and precision) of estimates.

In case of non probability sampling, the European Statistical System (ESS) suggests to assume probability sampling even in the case of non probability sampling in order to be able to use the CV, but the value of this measure is questionable. Other methods to get some indication of the precision of the estimate include e.g. non parametric tests and regression modelling, but, even in these cases, it is not clear which outputs could be used in the quality report to give information on the quality of the estimates.

Another common problem affecting the quality of economic data concerns the non-response that is likely to introduce a bias and increases the sampling error. Assessment of the impact of non-response is important in all the different types of data collections (probability sampling, non probability sampling and census).

Considering that non probability sampling and low response rates are rather common in the collection of economic data, and also considering that there is very few public material on these questions, a study has been recommended by SGECA 09-02.

The results of this study should be then taken into account by MS when presenting quality indicators in the 2011 technical report on activities performed in 2010.

Terms of References of the study

- Investigate examples on assessment of quality of non-probability sampling strategies applied in other sectors that could be adapted to fishery
- Propose a suitable methodology for the estimation of economic variables in case of non probability sampling
- Propose a indicators for the assessment of economic variables in case of non probability sampling
- Propose common format for the presentation of these methodologies in the NP and in the TR in order to harmonise quality reporting
- Propose methods to evaluate the impact of non-response in case of non probability sampling and also in case of probability sampling and census with low response rates.

Duration of the study: 4 months

Suggestion for workshop:

Training workshop on the estimation of capital value and capital costs.

EU Decision 949/08 requires MS to “estimate capital costs and capital value according to the proposed PIM methodology in the capital valuation report of study No FISH/2005/03: ‘2006. Evaluation of the capital value, investments and capital costs in the fisheries sector Study No FISH/2005/03, 203 p.’). The data and estimation procedures should be explained in the national programme”.

Reliable and unified approach to valuation of capital and determination of capital costs is essential for calculation of net profit and for the assessment of the dynamics of the sector in terms of level of investments and an evaluation of the ability of the sector maintain its capital value and continue operating in the future.

However, MS in the NP and in TR several times required practical instructions on how to apply the PIM methodology in concrete situations. It could be useful to organize a WS where MSs present their experiences and eventually their problems in applying the common method.

The outcomes of this workshop will be guidelines on the application of the common PIM methodology.

Métier-related variables

Métier variables: Tasks prior to the RCM NS&EA 2010	
RCM NS&EA 2009 Recommendation	For the purposes of ranking metiers to sample, national data on effort, landings and value by metier and fishing ground should be compiled regionally in advance of the next meeting. To enable this, participants from MS should strictly respect the agreed naming conventions of fishing ground, metiers and units of the variables as well as the deadline for submission of the national data. The Chair is responsible for requesting the data and compiling it on a regional level
Follow-up actions needed	Preparation of exchange data for task-sharing.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RCM Chair and RCM participants
Time frame (Deadline)	until May 2010
LM comment	LM endorses this recommendation

Métier variables: Tasks prior to the RCM NS&EA 2010	
RCM NS&EA 2009 Recommendation	For the purposes of understanding the heterogeneity of metiers and the consequences for task sharing and discard sampling, national descriptions of the regionally ranked metiers should be compiled using the format in Annex 9. To enable this, participants from the MS should strictly respect the agreed naming conventions of fishing ground and metiers as well as the deadline for submission of the information. Appointed persons are responsible for requesting the data and compiling it on a regional level
Follow-up actions needed	Preparation of exchange data for task-sharing.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Appointed persons (1 person per fishing ground) and RCM participants
Time frame (Deadline)	until May 2010
LM comment	LM endorses this recommendation. Mediterranean MS should use the metier description template from the RCM Med&BS. The RCM NA template is to be followed by MS for the Baltic, NS&EA and NA regions.

Métier variables: Sampling of metiers that only catch G3 species	
RCM NS&EA 2009 Recommendation	RCM NS&EA recommends that SGRN clarifies if metiers only catching G3 species (e.g. UK dredging for cockles and mussels) need to be sampled. Even when relevant research on discards and landings exists.
Follow-up actions needed	SGRN to clarify
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	STECF-SGRN
Time frame (Deadline)	December 2009
LM comment	These metiers need to be sampled as they are ranked in. Forwarded to SGRN for a final recommendation on this issue.

Métier-related variables: Fishing activities and sampling coverage	
RCM NS&EA 2009 Recommendation	RCM NS&EA recommends Sweden and Denmark to explore whether the discrepancy identified between the Swedish and Danish métier definition of vessels operating in Div. IIIa have any effect on the raising of the input data during HAWG and to provide a definition of the métier exploiting the herring stock in IIIa.
Follow-up actions needed	Provision of a working document to HAWG
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Sweden and Denmark
Time frame (Deadline)	Prior to HAWG 2010
LM comment	LM endorses this recommendation

Métier-related variables: Fishing activities and sampling coverage	
RCM NS&EA 2009 Recommendation	RCM NS&EA recommends Sweden and Denmark to review inconsistencies in the raising/compilation procedures of discard data and to upload discard data into FishFrame.
Follow-up actions needed	Provision of a working document to WGBFAS. Upload data into FishFrame.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Sweden and Denmark
Time frame (Deadline)	Prior to WGBFAS 2010
LM comment	LM endorses this recommendation

Métier-related variables: Fishing activities and sampling coverage	
RCM NS&EA 2009 Recommendation	RCM NS&EA recommends Sweden and Denmark to compile and submit discard data of sole in Division IIIa to WGBFAS.
Follow-up actions needed	Provision of discard data on sole in IIIa in due time to WGBFAS
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Sweden and Denmark.
Time frame (Deadline)	Prior to WGBFAS 2010
LM comment	LM endorses this recommendation

Métier-related variables: Fishing activities and sampling coverage	
RCM NS&EA 2009 Recommendation	RCM NS&EA recommends France and Belgium to submit discard data of North Sea cod and whiting to WGNSSK.
Follow-up actions needed	Provision of data in due time to WGNSSK.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	France and Belgium
Time frame (Deadline)	Prior to WGNSSK 2010
LM comment	LM endorses this recommendation

Métier variables; Regional coordination of sampling <i>Crangon</i>	
RCM NS&EA 2009 Recommendation	The RCM NS &EA recommends ICES to include the following in the ToRs for WGCAN 2010: “To analyse the spatial, temporal and technical overlap in national fishing activities in order to be able to derive regional sampling strategies”
Follow-up actions needed	ICES to modify ToRs of WGCAN
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	ICES
Time frame (Deadline)	End of 2009
LM comment	Already taken care of by ICES.

Métier and stock variables – Bluefin tuna : Regional sampling protocols	
RCM Med&BS 2009 Recommendation	RCM Med&BS recommends that Table 3.3.3.a (length) and Table 3.3.3.b (stock related) are used for length sampling and stock related samples respectively. The number of samples to be collected for length and stock related variables will be revised during the PGMed 2010 and RCM 2009 recommends MS to adjust their NP 2011-2013 accordingly.
Follow-up actions needed	Protocol to be revised by PGMed 2010.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Member states to adjust if possible their NP 2010 and to apply at the latest in their NP 2011-2013.
Time frame (Deadline)	October 2009, at the latest March 2010.
LM comment	LM endorses the RCM Med&BS recommendation that MS must apply a common protocol.

With regard to the template for **bilateral agreements**, LM endorses the RCM proposals to use this template (Annex 9, RCM NS&EA) and recommends that all bilateral agreements should be attached to NPs.

Métier related variables: Reference period for NP 2011-2013	
RCM NS&EA 2009 Recommendation	RCM NS&EA recommends MS to use the average landing figures over the years 2007-2008 as the basis for ranking métiers within the NP 2011-2013
Follow-up actions needed	Implementation
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	All MS
Time frame (Deadline)	March 31, 2010
LM comment	The reference period for the NP 2011-2013 should be 2007-2008, and the inclusion of 2009 should be optional (with explanation by MS on the relevance of using these data).

Stock-related variables:

Stock related variables: harmonisation and preparation of exchange data	
RCM NS&EA 2009 Recommendation	In order to use the time of the RCM more efficient and for the harmonisation of the NPs, including the quality checks, the exchange data tables from all NPs, namely planned number of individuals to be sampled for age, length, weight, sex and maturity should be compiled before the next RCM.
Follow-up actions needed	Preparation of exchange data for task-sharing.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Sweden (Maria Hansson)
Time frame (Deadline)	Prior to RCM 2010
LM comment	LM endorses this recommendation. RCM chairs should ensure these tables are produced.

Stock variables: Landing data	
RCM NS&EA 2009 Recommendations	The RCM NS&EA recommends that landings of the most recent three years reported by MS for non-TAC stocks, listed in Appendix VII of the Commission Decision 2008/949/EC, should be made available to MS. This information is required to evaluate if sampling is an obligation or not.
Follow-up actions needed	List of landing figures by MS and area to be compiled by JRC and sent to MS.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	STECF
Time frame (Deadline)	Prior to RCM 2010 (preferably prior to compilation of the NPs)
LM comment	This problem is common to other RCMs. The Commission will explore with Eurostat possibilities for producing tables based on Appendix VII of Decision 2009/949/EC by country and year for use by MS for compilation the NP proposals. In the meantime, LM recommends that MS continue using available Eurostat data, except for the Mediterranean.

Stock-based variables – Maturity sampling	
RCM NS&EA 2009 Recommendation	The RCM NS&EA recommends MS to refer to the table in Annex 5 of this report for elaborating maturity sampling programmes, when drafting their National Programme proposals 2011-2013
Follow-up actions needed	STECF/SGRN and the European Commission when evaluating the National Programme proposals 2011-2013.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Member States, STECF/SGRN, European Commission.
Time frame (Deadline)	Early 2010
LM comment	LM endorses this approach and recommends that all RCMs establish this table.

Stock-related variables: Collection of maturity data of sole in IIIa	
RCM NS&EA 2009 Recommendation	RCM NS&EA recommends Denmark to sample maturity data of sole in Division IIIa and to provide this data to WGBFAS.
Follow-up actions needed	Provision of a working document to WGBFAS. Upload data into FishFrame.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Denmark
Time frame (Deadline)	Sampling to start in 2010. First data delivery to WGBFAS in 2011.
LM comment	LM endorses this recommendation.

Stock-based variables – case studies	
RCM NS&EA 2009 Recommendation	The RCM NS&EA recommends to carry out two case studies for deriving regional estimation of stock-based variables for cod in IIIa and sole in VIId.
Follow-up actions needed	Carrying out statistical analysis and estimation of age structure of the catches, maturity-at-age, weight-at-age and sex-ratio-at-age from an international set of data. The outcomes should be presented in the 2010 ICES PGCCDBS.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Joël Vigneau (France), Mike Armstrong (UK), Henrik Degel (Denmark), Els Torreele (Belgium)
Time frame (Deadline)	Early 2010
LM comment	LM endorses this recommendation and suggests a combination of this case study with blue whiting from the RCM NA.

Stock related variables: increase of age sampling	
RCM NA 2009 Recommendation	The RCM NA recommends that sampling for age should be increased in order to meet the required sampling levels for saithe (Vb), turbot (all areas) and John Dory (all areas).
Follow-up actions needed	Implementation of (increased) sampling for age by the relevant countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - saithe (Vb) : - turbot (all areas) : BEL (VIIa, VIIfg, VIIIab) - John Dory (all areas) :
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS to include in their NP proposal 2011-2013
Time frame (Deadline)	March 2010
LM comment	LM endorses this recommendation.

Coordination and evaluation: Development of evaluation tool	
RCM NS&EA 2009 Recommendation	RCM NS&EA recommends the development of an evaluation tool to provide information on sampling coverage and sampling needs for required precision, based on data provided in regional databases.
Follow-up actions needed	Development of the tool
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	STECF-SGRN
Time frame (Deadline)	2010
LM comment	LM endorses this recommendation and recommends to use the COST tools and outcome of ICES WKACCU.

Recreational fisheries

Biological variables: Sampling of recreational eel fishery in fresh water	
RCM NS&EA 2009 Recommendation	The RCM NS&EA is presently not in the position to give advice on the sampling of recreational eel catches in fresh water systems. However, the RCM identified a discrepancy in the sampling of eel between fresh waters and marine waters. The sampling in marine waters is covered under the DCF, but as the majority of the recreational fisheries takes place in inland waters, coordination should also be done with the sampling of the inland waters, therefore RCM NS&EA recommends MS to provide an overview of their inland sampling of the recreational fishery on eel.
Follow-up actions needed	Provide overview of inland sampling (temporal, spatial distribution, sampling intensities, involved institutes) to RCM NS&EA 2010
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS
Time frame (Deadline)	Prior to RCM 2010
LM comment	Refer to SGRN to re-consider sampling of eels in the light of the poor stock status; COM supports a study on monitoring (MARE/2008/11 Lot 2: Pilot projects to estimate potential and actual escapement of silver eel); COM have made clear that no additional funding for obligations under Reg. 1100/2007 will be available.

RCM-NA considered that sampling of recreational fisheries on eel in marine waters is not necessary, as this activity not really being a real targeted practice. LM endorses this conclusion.

LM considers the establishment of the ICES Planning Group on Recreational Fisheries Sampling (PGRFS) relevant for the RCM work, but notes that participation in this PG is not eligible under the DCF.

LM recommends that NPs on recreational fisheries use guidance from the ICES WKSMRF report.

AOB

Meeting and working facilities: Share-Point	
RCM NS&EA 2009 Recommendation	The RCM NS&EA recommends that JRC establishes a web based Share-Point in order to facilitate intersessional work, the exchange of working documents, and the production of the meetings report.
Follow-up actions needed	Establishment of Share-points
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	JRC
Time frame (Deadline)	early 2010
LM comment	LM notes that JRC has taken this on board and are hoping to deliver details asap. LM encourages this development. Part of that job at JRC is to put up a public website as part of the DCF website.

Section 2 - Addressing TOR 2 Regional Data Bases

2.1 RCM suggestions and recommendations on regional database

SGRN recommended, in its July 2009 report, that lead MS are identified to progress the issue of regional databases in partnership with other MS. For SGRN, this would ensure a shared ownership of the regional database. SGRN also recommended that RCMs agree a FISHFRAME compatible database for the regional databases and that the work programme for developing the regional database should be included in the NP for 2011-2013 under the database development of financial forms.

Following this recommendation, the development of regional database was included in the agenda of the four RCM, where different situations were exposed and different solutions were suggested:

- in the RCM Baltic, FishFrame is up and running. All countries are accustomed with the way of doing, and progress on the development of the tool is discussed but no further widening of the scope of the RDB, i.e. integrating more fishing activities (e.g. pelagic fisheries) and more fishing areas (??).
- in the RCM NS&EA, Fishframe is considered as the best candidate for the RDB, and in order to manage the further development, it is required that an international steering group is formed. The steering group members should represent all regions and most groups of users and be responsible for prioritizing the requests for new developments from the users. The running costs for such steering group should be eligible for funding through the DCF.
- In the RCM NA, two proposals were made for developing a RDB. Ireland proposed to lead the process of constituting a RDB based on FishFrame. The proposal detailed the process for data flow and data management that would help Member States stepping in the RDB. France proposed another approach consisting of convening a workshop together with IT experts, data managers and biologists to define exactly what would be the needs, the control and validation rules and the implementation roadmap. The RCM NA saw these two proposals as a positive sign on the willingness to develop such RDB, and building upon the two proposals, suggested the setting up of a workshop with the following Terms of references.
 - Definition of the objectives and scope of the regional database. It may be the case that a simple way forward would be to let a few Member States develop a regional database only on some DCF variables. This way of doing would prepare the ground to an expansion to all Member States and more variables, in further stages.
 - Harmonisation of methods and data definitions (based on RCM work) and complementarity with COST tools
 - Evaluation of the project by international experts in data management and

Information Technologies, in order to set up the frame and good practises for a regional database. The evaluation should also consider the benefits expected for each Member States.

- Redaction of a specification document, budget evaluation and distribution of tasks
- The RCM Med&BS agreed to check as a first step that the utility of a regional database should be assessed and that the further steps to be undertaken in the future have to be clearly identified. So RCM M&BS proposed:
 - a specific workshop on the utility of regional databases as already recommended by Atlantic RCMs should be set up by LM on the specification of a regional database. Outcomes shall be presented in the RCM Med&BS 2010.
 - end users such as RFMOs (i.e. GFCM) will be invited to attend the workshop for expressing their needs and priorities about data collection.
 - RCM Med&BS 2010 will decide if the regional database shall be implemented.

2.2 Ongoing development on data management by ICES, GFCM and EC

The ICES representative made a presentation on the regional databases' requirement as data end user. The flow of data received by ICES for stock assessment purpose may be divided into three fields: (i) landings and effort statistics; (ii) the research surveys raw data (tool = DATRAS); and (iii) the data based on commercial sampling of commercial fisheries. Regional database is mainly focused on the later. Each data item submitted to ICES must come from a source that is identifiable and can be made responsible. ICES member countries have the responsibility to submit data to ICES. The ICES InterCatch database includes catch-at-length and catch-at-age aggregated data at a stock level and it is the documentary system of aggregations made at stock level. The data is populated by stock coordinators prior to stock assessment Expert Groups. Stock aggregated data should be made at an end-user level (InterCatch in ICES case) in order to allow the maintenance of documentary database.

The GFCM coordinator of the sub-committee on Statistics and information presented the ongoing development on data management in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. The data collection is organised following the GFCM Task 1 (Resolution GFCM/31/2007/1) requiring all countries to submit to the GFCM secretariat and on an annual basis, fisheries related data by operational units. The concept of operational unit as been defined as 'a group of fishing vessels which are engaged in the same type of fishing operation within the same Geographical Sub-Area, targeting the same species or group of species and belonging to the same economic segment' (GFCM glossary). The DCF requirements are fully in line with the Task 1, and the most recent GFCM recommendation (GFCM/33/2009/7) renders mandatory the submission of fishing statistics (capacity, effort and landings by species an operational units) by February 2010 and the economic and basic biological variables by January 2011. The Mediterranean and Black Sea Member countries have the responsibility ot submit data to the GFCM secretariat. There is no ongoing development on more disaggregated information

or addition of new variables such as catch-at-length or catch-at-age structures, since they are available from assessment working groups in the 'stock assessment form'.

EC/DG MARE informed the LM that the JRC is currently developing a database for storing the information originated from economic data calls for the purpose of quality checking of economic data and the production of the Annual Economic Report. The DB design should be available for the next data call (early 2010). The second step could be the development of a similar DB for storing data originated from biological data calls (such as SGMED). The biological data calls will be based, in the future, on the COST/FishFrame data exchange format, and thus the JRC will explore the possibility to use the FishFrame software facilities. DG MARE and the JRC are currently negotiating terms of references for the JRC work programme for 2010.

2.3 Conclusions and recommendation

The discussion whether a RDB should contain aggregated or detailed data does not reach agreement among the scientists. This issue has to be sorted out as a first step. To that aim, the needs for a RDB and the benefits expected from both systems have to be clearly defined, in order to help the scientific community to make a clear choice.

The IT considerations, difficulty of implementation and related data management and data governance should also be considered for both options (aggregated or detailed RDB) to complete the view.

After several unsuccessful attempts of developing RDB in all fishing regions around Europe, and considering that the individual positions on this issue have shown divergence of strategic views, LM proposed to set up a **Workshop on Regional Data Management Strategies**. The terms of reference suggested are:

- a) review the situation regarding RDB in the different regions and their implications in data management
- b) Define the needs, objectives, scope, and benefits expected for a RDB
- c) provide options for the different regions of the implications of developing no RDB, an aggregated data RDB, a detailed data RDB)
- d) provide a brief roadmap attached to the different options.

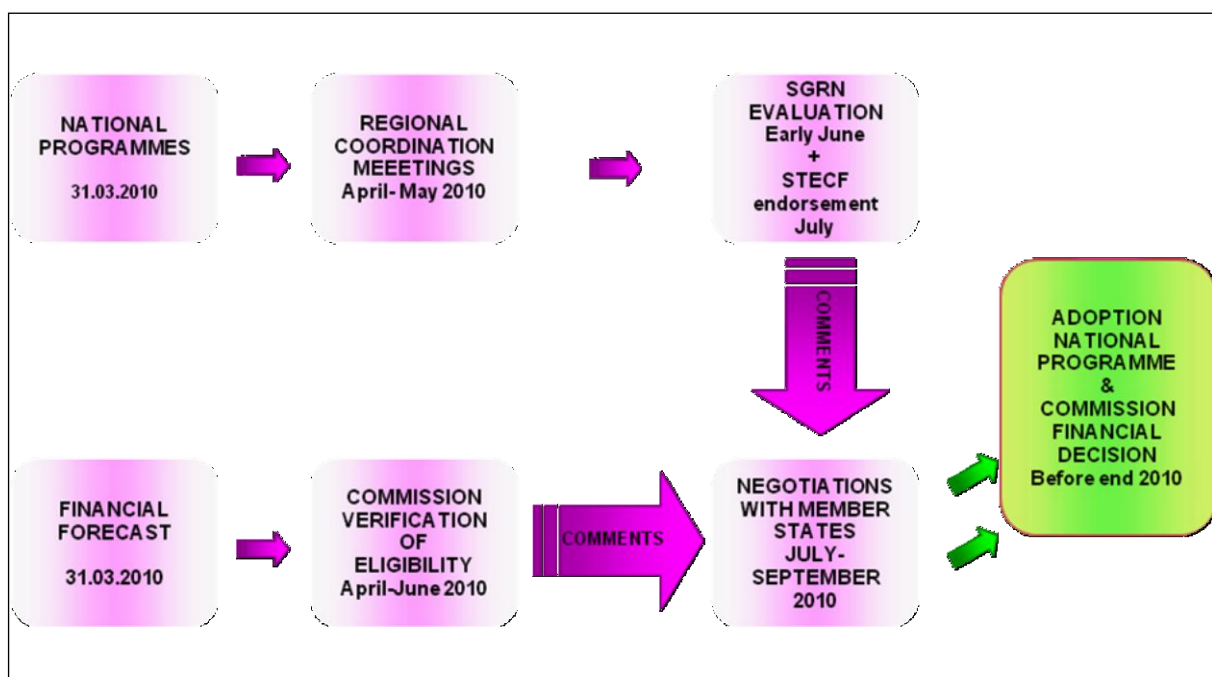
This workshop is to be given a high priority status and must be convened before the 2010 RCMs. In order to ensure the efficiency of the workshop, LM recommended to the four RCM chairs to appoint four participants from their region, trying to achieve a balance between IT experts, economists, biologists and data managers.

If accepted for DCF financial support, the NC should immediately anticipate the travel of one person for 4 days in Brussels in their revised NP proposal and inform for 2010. The proposed date and venue for the workshop are 22-24 February in Brussels.

Section 3 - Addressing TOR 3 RCM's 2010 Issues; Schedule, TOR's, Infrastructure Issues

3.1 2010 Proposed Meetings Schedule

The EC representative informed the Liaison meeting on the new DCF work schedule for 2010 that EC/DG MARE wishes to establish in 2010.



Work schedule for 2011 NPs adoption and financing.

Due to the necessity of the financial support for the implementation of the National Programs in the start of the year, the new schedule should make sure the Member states will receive their first budget in the beginning of the implementation year and can start the execution of their NP with the necessary funds at hand.

NPs 2011-2013 will be submitted by 31st of March 2010. EC/DG MARE expressed its willingness to follow strictly the NPs evaluation procedure - by SGRN then endorsement by STECF - before beginning negotiations with the Member states on their budget proposals.

Given that the evaluation process will take place in June – early July 2010, **the RCMs will be scheduled in April – May 2010** (including RCM Long Distance Fisheries), to allow MS to

adjust their NP following RCMs recommendations. Negotiations with MS will occur during summer and autumn 2010 and it is expected that the Financing Commission Decision for the 2011 NPs will be adopted before the end of 2010, and the first payment finalized by the end of 2010 or early January 2011.

The work schedule for 2010 should be stressed, particularly during the 1st semester, regarding the DCF agenda but also the ICES one. The Liaison meeting discussed the opportunity to hold RCMs back to back, for running two RCMs in parallel. This solution could be possible only for RCM NS&EA and RCM Med&BS. That short schedule is to be seen as exceptional and the normal planning will be resumed in 2011 and 2012.

RCM 2010 venues and dates

RCM Baltic: Vilnius, Lithuania, 10-13 May 2010, (Chair Jukka Pönni).

RCM NS&EA: Copenhagen, Denmark, 17-21 May 2010, (Chair Sieto Verver).

RCM NA: Ostend, Belgium, 19-22 April 2010, (Chair Joël Vigneau).

RCM Med&BS: Varna, Bulgaria, 17-21 May 2010, (Chair Paolo Carpentieri).

RCM LDF: Madrid (to be confirmed), Spain, February? (co-chairs to be confirmed).

As RCM NA is the first venue in the Atlantic supra-region, economists are invited to attend this meeting for discussing ToRs regarding economic issues and transversal variables. **LM recommends the nomination of a chairperson to lead the economists subgroup** before the next RCM NA.

SGRN meeting on evaluation of the NPs will be held in Brussels, 14-18 June 2010 (**provisional). LM stresses RCM chairs to finalize quickly their report in order the MS to be able to adjust or modify their NP before this meeting by including RCM recommendations.

3.2 Developing the Terms of reference for RCMs in 2010

The Liaison Meeting defined the following terms of reference to be addressed by next 2010 RCMs, except for RCM LDF (see LM ToR 4) :

Article 4 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 665/2008 stipulates that "The Regional Coordination Meetings referred to in Article 5(1) of Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 shall evaluate the regional co-ordination aspects of the national programmes and where necessary shall make recommendations for the better integration of national programmes and for task-sharing among Member States".

To achieve this goal, the RCMs in Spring 2010 are requested to:

1. Review progress in regional co-ordination since the 2009 RCM (follow-up of recommendations) and 6th Liaison Meeting report.
2. **Review feedback from data end users and benchmarks meetings.**
3. Harmonise and coordinate the regional aspects in the NP proposals 2011 following the

DCF framework, with particular emphasis on the following:

3.a Economic variables

Fishing fleet (homogeneous clustering methodology at the level of supra region; homogeneous understanding of the definitions and protocols to achieve the goals; quality issues) in terms of:

- Follow up of recommendations of Liaison Meeting,
- Methodological report: experiences and applicability,
- Consistency and comparison of economic variables,
- Comparison of estimation methods for quality indicators,
- Propose ToRs for the workshop on clustering.

3.b Metier-related variables

- 3.b.1. Ranking system following regional harmonisation of the metiers at level 6, update of the 2009 regional view on fishing activities; creation of a regional ranking system to assess the Member States obligations and demands for derogation.
- 3.b.2. Landings - sampling agreement for landings abroad; discussion/agreement on concurrent sampling; agreement on merging of metiers for sampling; sampling intensities and data quality.
- 3.b.3. Discards - creation of a regional view of the discard sampling programmes, identification of gaps and discrepancies for optimising the spatial, time and metiers coverage. Complete the list of métiers important to sample and provide scientific justification for not sampling certain metiers for discards.
- 3.b.4. Recreational fisheries - review of the actions proposed in the NP proposals, identify proposals for regionally co-ordinated actions.

3.c Biological stock-related variables

Sampling intensities and data quality; identification of stocks suitable for international age-length keys and task sharing for ageing; possibilities for extension to regional collection of data for maturity, sex-ratio and mean weights.

Ensure that exemptions for biological sampling do not exceed 25% of quota/landings for stock.

Establish proposals for a list of Group 3 species.

~~2.d.3.d~~ 3.d Transversal variables - common understanding of effort definitions, relation between biologists and economists in relation to data collection methodologies.

4. Propose actions and where possible conclude regional agreements on the collection of data outlined under ToR 2.

5. Quality issues

5.a Review progress on quality control, validation etc. in NP proposals.

5.b Regional databases: **agreement of a roadmap based on the proposed by WS on strategies for Regional databases.**

5.c Review the outcomes of the COST hands-on workshop and recommend on the best practises for quality evaluation of the collected data

6. **Reviewing the DCF list of surveys (revision of Appendix IX of decision XXX) – Compile information provided by MS according to templates agreed by SGRN-09-04.**

7. Studies and pilot projects

8. Any other business

In addition the Liaison meeting :

- suggests about point 2.a RCM Chairs to consult economists of their region and the chairperson of SGECA when drafting the ToRs to adapt them to the most relevant regional issues.
- stresses **RCM Med&BS to address some strong relevant ToRs on large pelagics**, and more particularly on Bluefin tuna:
 - i. to strengthen its responsibility concerning BFT issues under DCF framework,
 - ii. and to encourage ad'hoc national experts to participate in the RCM and to contribute to find the best ways for regional coordination on LPF data collection.

3.3 Infrastructures issues

An increasing number of issues dealing with RCMs require access to formal documents (NPs, TRs, regulations), to reports (RCMs, Liaison meeting, SGRN, planning groups, workshops...), etc. A need to exchange working documents, templates to summarize national information before the RCM meetings is also more and more stressing.

The four 2009 RCM recommends to EC to establish a common tool where all information could be available, both for RCMs issues but also for public access to general information on DCF issues (metiers descriptions, regional sampling plans for stocks of the Appendix VII etc.). LM endorsed the RCMs recommendation and discussed several solutions such as FTP and sharepoints (but no public access), or dedicated websites. LM **endorsed the idea of creating a RCMs sharepoint** for the storing of reference documents, where RCM participants could find and prepare all the information usefull for the meetings, exchange information efficiently during the meeting and for producing the report, and be able to carry out intersessional work. A second step would be to propose an open access tool where MS could upload and find documents they need to prepare their NP or TR (i.e. ranking system results, regional templates on landing statistics by species, regional and bilateral agreements etc.).

The EC representative informed the Liaison Meeting that the issue on the implementation of a sharepoint is included in the work plan actually negotiated between EC and JRC. The deadline for establishing the tool would be February 2010. In case of difficulties for implementing by this date, the ICES representative offered service to create quickly a sharepoint like the joint PGCCDBS/PGMed one, with common space for all the RCMs and dedicated spaces for each of them. LM thanked ICES for its offer but was of the opinion that this task should better be first **in the remit of JRC's prerogatives**.

Section 4 - Addressing TOR 4

RCM Long Distance – A First Step to establish TOR's

According to Article 5(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 Member States shall coordinate their national programmes with other Member States in the same marine region. For this purpose the Commission may organise Regional Coordination Meetings (RCM) in order to assist Member States in coordinating their national programmes and the implementation of the collection, management and use of the data in the same region.

So far, four RCMs are operational in the framework of the DCF: Baltic, North Sea/ Arctic, North Atlantic and Mediterranean/Black Sea. Most fleets subject to DCF activities are covered by these RCMs. However some other fleets, operating namely in third countries and/or in international waters, are not sufficiently covered by the existing RCMs. This was the case for fisheries taking place in CECAF area or in the Pacific area as well as several tuna fleets operating in the Atlantic or the Indian Ocean.

In the past, STECF and the Liaison Meeting urged DG MARE to convene an RCM Long Distance Fisheries (LDF) which could ensure that sampling activities in these areas are properly addressed and coordinated among the relevant Member states. Some Member states have used the lack of this regional structure to justify the non-sampling of the fisheries mentioned above.

Obviously the different nature of the fisheries under the scope of this RCM would require that a big organisational effort is deployed by DG MARE and the Member states concerned. In addition the chairman in charge of steering this RCM should have sufficient knowledge of most of the fisheries concerned, so that relevant terms of reference for the different fisheries are established.

In order to address this concern it is necessary that an RCM for Long Distance Fisheries is organised before Member states submit their multiannual National Programmes for data collection for the period 2011-2013, due for 31.03.2010.

This issue was discussed in the Fisheries Management Committee held in October. Spain proposed to host the first RCM long distance fisheries early next year, together with a proposal for two Spanish co-chairs, one to deal with large pelagic fisheries and one to deal with the other fisheries. However to date the Commission has not received an official written proposal from Spain to host the meeting and for the two co-chairs.

The LM discussed which fisheries should be dealt with in the RCM long distance fisheries. The LM recommends that the stocks listed in Appendix VII of EC 949/08 which do not fall under current RCMs should fall under the remit of the RCM LDF; these include Highly migratory species in the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans, CECAF FAO 34, and WECAF. Also to include other areas not in the regulation

The LM also discussed other stocks which at the moment fall under the remit of other RCMs and if these should be included under the remit of the RCM LDF. Specifically the LM

discussed the issue of the East bluefin tuna stock which at the moment is covered by the RCM Med & BS and RCM NA.

After several discussions, since most of the East bluefin tuna stock is covered by the Mediterranean RCM and only a negligible part is covered by the RCM NA, the LM recommends all the sampling activities for the East bluefin tuna stock is co-ordinated by the RCM Med & BS.

LM also strongly recommends that scientists working on the eastern bluefin tuna stocks attend the RCM Med & BS and put forward problems associated with data deficiencies and sampling activities of bluefin tuna so that the RCM Med & BS can take the necessary actions and co-ordination activities.

The LM also endorses the proposal made by the RCM Med & BS that the chairman of RCM Med & BS should contact DG MARE and ICCAT to explore whether regional approaches for sampling large pelagics catches fit with national obligations and recommendations on protocols under the ICCAT framework.

The LM also discussed the TORs of the RCM LDF and the group agreed that for the first meetings relatively simple TOR should be established. The TOR of the 1st RCM Long Distance Fisheries should include:

- i) To define the fishing grounds and respective member states involved in fisheries
- ii) To identify the fisheries and current sampling protocols and activities which are taking place in the fisheries covered by the RCM LDF.
- iii) To determine the current co-ordination activities which are taking place between MSs with special reference to the sampling schemes detailed in the National program proposals.
- iv) To identify the respective metiers and fill in the standard template for metier description as detailed in the RCM NA and RCM Med & BS reports
- v) To compile data (e.g. landings, effort) by metier of the fisheries covered by the RCM LDF
- vi) To propose activities and TOR for the next RCM LDF
- vii) To follow the report structure of other RCMs including formatting, tables and appendices

Section 5 - Addressing TOR 5 Workshops

Review of 2010 Workshops

LM endorsed the workshops for 2010 proposed by 2009 PGCCDBS and PGMed. All the proposed WKs were included on the DCF eligible list of 2010 meetings.

Setup eligibility criteria for EU funding

Due to 2010 DCF budget limitation the EC was not able to use the past practices of financing two participants by MS. This year the EC used the following criteria on setting the number of participants per MS:

- a) One participant by MS for meetings with a wider geographical scope (e.g. methodological WKs);
- b) Two participants by MS for meetings with a regional scope.

The EC asked LM to set criteria on the selection of eligible meetings funded by DCF. The LM asked ICES to continue providing the list of ICES meetings as it was done in previous years. LM asked ICES to provide this list with categorized experts groups:

- Priority 1 - ICES experts groups with a direct link with the DCF and the Common Fisheries Policy (e.g. PGCCDBS and PGMed recommended workshops; fish assessment working group and benchmark workshops);
- Priority 2 – ICES experts groups with a link with the Common Fisheries Policy, but not directly linked with DCF (e.g. ecosystem approach related working group).

ICES should also send the relevant supporting information (ToRs and scientific justification) of each expert group included on the list. ICES experts group under Priority 1 will be included on the eligible meeting funded under the DCF. Priority 2 ICES' expert group will be evaluated by LM on the eligibility for funding under DCF.

The EC did not received a provisional 2010 proposal of meeting from GFCM. In order to improve the planning process, GFCM Secretariat should make the list available in future years. If this situation persists the EC will include a provisional list of four workshops related with GFCM activity. Although, LM strongly recommend that GFCM provide this list in the future. LM is aware that in some cases the final decisions on GFCM are made after the circulation of the final list on eligible meetings, but a provisional list will be appreciated.

EC also considered the possibility of incorporating next year's IOTC meetings on the DCF eligible meeting 2011. LM meeting will follow the recommendation for Workshops that might be proposed from the RCM - Long Distance.

LM noted that economical issues relating to DCF has not been taken into account in the current list of eligible workshops/working groups to be funded by DCF.

Screening of proposed Workshops 2011

No Workshops were proposed by the RCMs.

Trans-Regional Participation

In order to allow all interested participants to attend a meeting and also to help the workshop's chair on preparation matters, the chairs of each workshop will set deadlines to announce participation and on preparatory work (e.g. data submission, exchange age readers). ICES secretariat will inform PGCCDBS and PGMed chairs about the deadlines settled for the incoming year workshops.

Proposal from the Economist

A workshop on estimation of capital value and capital cost, related to the DCF has been proposed. This proposal only concerns the main subject of the workshop without clear definition of ToRs, chairmanship, venue and scientific justification. LM recommended SGECA to include ToRs, chairmanship, venue and scientific justification when proposing future workshops. The complete proposals will be evaluated by the EC and then decide about inclusion. LM recommends SGECA/STECF to be active in promoting these studies.

Section 6 - Addressing TOR 6 Studies and AOB

Studies 2010 and beyond

The Commission informed the LM participants that due to lack of funding only three studies are likely to be funded in 2010, these include:

- i) one on sharks
- ii) one on seabirds
- iii) impact assessment of the reform of the CFP 2nd part

Any studies which have been proposed by the RCMs can be considered for funding from 2011 onwards.

Topic : Studies in support of the DCR framework

RCM Med&BS The RCM-Med&BS has reviewed the following proposals of studies proposed by the RCM NS, RCM NA, RCM Baltic, RCM Med & BS

- *Stock-based variables*

LM endorses this study however LM notes that no funds can be made available for this study

- *COST corrective and evolutive maintenance*

LM endorses this study, however the commission informed the LM that it has to make a restricted negotiation procedure with the developers of cost

- *Proposed economic study of recreational fisheries*

LM endorses this study, however LM recommends that the study should have a regional approach by covering the whole region and not a specific MS

- *Rebuilding the XX century time series of effort, landings and value of the trawl fleet operating in the Northeast Atlantic*

The LM endorses this study, and notes that it can also be expanded to other regions. The commission informed the participants that a similar study is being conducted in the Mediterranean.

- *Integrated biological and socio-economic evaluation of the importance of cephalopods for European small-scale fisheries for management purposes*

LM agrees about this study however LM notes that the budget is relatively high and it should be better specified.

- *Proposal for a Survey for the estimation of the abundance of juvenile anchovy in the Bay of Biscay and its ecology in autumn. JUVENA 2010. Joint survey AZTI-IEO*

LM does not endorse this study and until the list of surveys is revised the LM cannot consider this study

- *Improvement of the knowledge on biology and economic importance of rays fisheries in subareas VIII and IX*

LM notes the importance of this study however the LM recommends that this study should be implemented as a pilot study for the 2011-2013 period and detailed in the respective NP.

- **Multidisciplinary identification of stock boundaries for stock assessment purposes (through DCR data and other sources) for the most relevant species in the Mediterranean Sea.**

LM highly endorses this study and notes that it is top priority for the Mediterranean. The Commission also informed the participants that it will start discussions to consider such a project in view of the next EC Research Framework Program.

- **A study to harmonise quality reporting and propose methodology in the case of non-probability sample survey.**

LM endorses this study.

Agreement on a procedure to ensure that LM recommendations to ICES Assessment WGs and to STECF and its working groups (SGRN, SGECA, SGMED etc.) are being followed-up

The ICES representative informed the LM that the LM recommendations will be presented in the next ICES meetings of the WG chairs and ICES secretariat. A subgroup consisting of the PGCCDBS chairs, stock assessment WG chair and RCM chairs will be setup to review the LM recommendations.

The LM also noted that a quality road map was developed by last LM (2007) meeting and that this should be revised by SGRN and to agree on procedures to ensure ICES and STECF working groups have followed up the LM recommendations.

Since at the moment no follow up of LM recommendation is taking place with the Mediterranean RFMOs, the LM recommends the commission to increase the relationship with existing RFMOs namely ICCAT and GFCM.

JRC Website

The LM meeting discussed the importance of a JRC website and welcomed the JRC programme to modernise the website

Annex 1

6th Liaison Meeting between the chairs of the RCMs, the chairs of PGCCDBS and PG MED, the chair of SGECA, the ICES representative, the GFCM representative, the chair of SGRN and DG MARE

**Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute
Palmaille 9, 22767 Hamburg
7 and 8 December 2009**

Terms of Reference

TOR 1. Main outputs of RCMs and specific recommendations to Liaison Meeting. Discussion on possible follow-up.

TOR 2. Regional databases:

- Inventory of existing tools in the ICES area and their interaction: Presentation by ICES.
- Data management tools for Mediterranean Fisheries. Presentation by GFCM.
- Discussion on:
 - Actual need and utility of Regional databases
 - National Data bases versus Regional Data bases
 - Data bases for socio-economic variables.

TOR 3. RCMs 2010 issues: schedule, ToRs, infrastructure issues.

TOR 4. RCM Long Distance (A first step to establish ToRs)

TOR 5. Workshops:

- Review of list 2010
- Set up of eligibility criteria for EU funding
- Screening of proposed Workshops 2011
- Trans-Regional Participation
- Proposals from the economists

TOR 6. Studies and AOB

- Studies 2010 and beyond
- Agreement on a procedure to ensure that LM recommendations to ICES Assessment WGs and to STECF and its working groups (SGRN, SGECA, SGMED etc.) are being followed-up
- JRC Website